Improvement in service conditions and amenities for the service personnel is an ongoing process.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Purchase of missiles from Israel

1108. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is purchasing a range of missiles from Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof including budgetary allocations and spending on this count;

(c) whether it is a fact that the missiles that are being procured from Israel are affecting the development of indigenous missile systems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Procurement of defence items including missiles is made from various indigenous as well as foreign sources including Israel in accordance with the well laid down defence procurement procedure. This is a continuous process undertaken for the modernisation of the Armed Forces to keep them in a state of readiness to meet any eventuality. Divulging details in this regard on the floor of the House would not be in the interest **of** national security.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Women officers in three defence services

1109. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women officers presently working in all the three defence services of India;

(b) how many suicidal cases occurred in the defence services, particularly women officers since last five years;

(c) what is the exact cause and circumstances which drove these women officer's to suicide in defence forces; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government so far for preventing such incidents, particularly of women officers' suicide?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The number of women officers presently working in the three Services is as follows:

Army	Air Force	Navy
945	739	236

The number of suicide cases in the Defence Services in the last five years is as follows:

Year	Army		Air Force		Navy	
	Total No. of cases	No. of women Officers committed suicide	Total No. of cases	No. of women officers committed suicide	Total No. of cases	No. of women officers committed suicide
2003	96	Nil	24	Nil	Nil	Nil
2004	100	Nil	13	Ml	04	Nil
2005	77	Nil	23	Nil	05	Nil
2006	120	02	24	Nil	01	Nil
2007 (Upto 5.8.2007)	70	01	11	Nil	01	Nil

There have been only 3 suicide cases of women officers in the last 5 years in the Defence Services. Every such incident is inquired into by a Court of Inquiry. The Courts of Inquiry conducted in the first two suicide cases of women officers during the year 2006, have revealed that factors like personal reasons, depression and psychological adjustment disorder etc. led to these incidents.

The measures adopted by the Government to prevent such incidents include:

(i) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances;

(ii) Strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit;

(iii) Liberalized leave policy to attend to domestic problems;

(iv) Identification and counseling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(v) Psychological counseling by psychiatrists where required.

(vi) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/meditation.

(vii) Post Army Medical Corps Junior Commissioned Officers as psychological counselors who will interact with the troops and alleviate their stress related problems.

Apart from the above, the following steps have been taken to address grievances specific to women officers.

(a) Women officers are treated at par with similarly placed male counterparts in terms of recruitment, training, tenure of service, promotions, pay and perks, leave, welfare measures etc.

(b) Commanders at all levels have been instructed to be more sensitive to the tasks being assigned to the lady officers with special focus on (i) providing an honourable working environment (ii) being sensitive to the constraints faced by lady officers in performing certain specified tasks and (iii) keeping in mind displayed aptitudes while assigning non-core duties.

(c) Women officers are provided with separate living accommodation in the Officers Mess.

(d) Adequate grievance redressal mechanism has been put in place to address complaints of sexual harassment and other complaints of lady officers.

(e) Women officers are free to approach their Commanding Officers/ Supervisors at any time to discuss their personal/official problems and seek immediate assistance.

Terrorists hiding in Bangladesh

1110. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of Bangladesh Government who participated in the 2-day Indo-Bangladesh Home Secretary level meeting in New Delhi on the 3rd August, 2007 confirmed that the key operatives of outlawed ULFA outfit have been hiding in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details of the confirmation made by Bangladesh officials indicating whether any promise about apprehending them and externing to India made;

(c) whether any concrete joint action plan has been drawn with Bangladesh for flushing out the terrorists and insurgents engaged in anti-India activities, particularly in the North-Eastern India, using the neighbouring territory as hide-outs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADH1KA SELVI): (a) During talks held on 2-3 August, 2007, in response to the security concerns raised by Indian side, the Bangladesh side reiterated its principled position that it does not and would not allow its territory to be used by elements inimical to the interests of India.

(b) Both sides agreed to initiate swift action on information received about groups and elements and other fugitives from the law of either country taking shelter in the ether country.

(c) and (d) Both sides agreed with the necessity of real time exchange of actionable information between the security agencies of the two countries, in addition to the existing mechanisms of information sharing between the BSF and BDR. The modalities of designation of nodal points would be decided separately by mutual consultations.